China, including those which relate to the sovereignty, independence, territorial and administrative integrity of the Republic of China" or "any situation, treaty, or agreement which may be brought about contrary to the covenants and obligations of the Pact of Paris." This note, while directed in diplomatically correct language to both Japan and China, was in reality a notice to Tokyo that the latter's actions in Manchuria would not be approved by Washington. From the name of the American Secretary of State who devised and sent it, the policy thus expressed became known as the Stimson Doctrine. It was in the direct tradition of American Far Eastern policy and marked a step toward the more active participation of the United States in the effort to save China from Japan.

The League of Nations found the problem extremely knotty. The smaller member nations vigorously denounced Japanese action, for if it were allowed to go unrebuked and unchecked, their own safety was threatened. The larger member powers were more guarded. Both Japan and China agreed to the appointment by the League of an international commission of inquiry. This commission, headed by the Earl of Lytton, proceeded to the Far East and made a study extending over several months. In the autumn of 1932 it reported to the League, giving an account of events and suggesting a method of settlement which it felt would safeguard the interests of both contestants. The report satisfied neither China nor Japan, but the Japanese were the more outspoken in their disapproval.

On February 24th, 1933, the Assembly of the League, acting under Article XV of its Covenant, adopted findings

which condemned Japan, and recommended a method of settlement by negotiation between Japan and China in close cooperation with a committee on which the League, the United States, and Russia were to be represented. Japan dissented and March 27th, 1933, served notice on Geneva of its intention to withdraw from membership. The issue was now squarely joined and the honor and perhaps the very life of both the League and Japan were at stake.

By the summer of 1933, however, it was clear that at least for the time being Japan was the victor. May 31st, 1933, China and Japan signed a truce by which Chinese troops were to be withdrawn from an area between Peking and the Great Wall, and